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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PRAGUE 000467

SIPDIS

FOR OIG/ISP, EUR/NCE, and EUR/EX

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ASIG EZ AMGT

SUBJECT: POST FOLLOW-UP TO OIG RECOMMENDATIONS

REF: SECSTATE 47752

¶1. Prague submits the following responses to the four remaining open/unresolved recommendations from the OIG inspection of Embassy Prague (ISP-I-04-39A), issued September, 2004.

¶2. Recommendation No. 1: Embassy Prague should request, and the Bureau of Consular Affairs and Bureau of European And Eurasian Affairs should approve and fund, an additional Foreign Service national position in the Consular Section to perform Consular management support duties. (Action: Embassy Prague, in coordination with CA and EUR)

Initial response: Embassy concurs with the OIG recommendation and has taken action. The FMO section has included the cost of an FSN-06 management support position in its budget forecast and will include the request in this year's MPP submission. Embassy now awaits funding from Department to take further action on this recommendation.

Analysis: OIG notes the actions taken by Embassy Prague, please notify OIG once the position has been approved and funded and the recommendation can be closed.

Response: Post has included the cost of an FSN-06 consular management support position in its budget forecast and has included the resource request in this year's MPP submission. Discussions between post and EUR Budget have not resulted in the funding for this position. Post has also informally discussed with the Bureau of Consular Affairs the possibility of funding the position; also without success. Department funding for this position does not appear likely in the near future.

¶3. Recommendation No. 6: Embassy Prague should complete and implement the information system documentation requirements and provide copies of the plans to the Bureau of Information Resource Management. (Action: Embassy Prague)

Initial response: ISSO and Systems Managers have submitted the IT Contingency Plan and System Security Plan to DS for review. The Configuration Management Plan has an anticipated completion/submission date of 31 January 2004.

Analysis: In the next update, please confirm if the IT plans have been completed and implemented.

Response: All required System Documentation has been implemented at post and submitted to DS/SI/CS/RAD for review.

¶4. Recommendation No. 7: Embassy Prague, in coordination with the Bureau of Information Resource Management, should work to approve an offsite alternate facility for classified information systems processing and storage. (Action: Embassy Prague, in coordination with IRM)

Initial response: IRM equipment and contingency plans are available, but the lack of an offsite location cleared for the storage and processing reduces their effectiveness. Post IMO is currently working with IRM and DS to resolve this issue. DS regulations regarding offsite storage/processing of classified information severely reduce the options open to post regarding storage of contingency classified equipment/operations.

Analysis: In the next update, please provide information on any progress made to secure an offsite alternative facility for classified IM storage/processing. Per IRM memo DTD 11/22/04, OIG is removing IRM as the participating entity on this recommendation.

Response: IRM and post IMO have addressed this issue to the extent of their ability. With no facility approved for storage of classified material locally, post continues the practice of sending classified backup tapes to AMCONSUL Munich for storage. The ability to store classified equipment and media offsite (locally) is not feasible.

¶5. Recommendation No. 8: Embassy Prague should discontinue the practice of authorizing U.S. government sponsored school employees to use the diplomatic pouch for personal mail services. (Action: Embassy Prague)

Initial response: Embassy is in the process of formally requesting a waiver from DPM in order to provide this service to the U.S. citizens currently working at the International School in Prague.

Analysis: During the inspection, OIG found that Embassy Prague has authorized the school employees to use the pouch for personal mail, which is prohibited by 5 FAM 343.5.

Response: Post has sent a cable to A/DPM requesting a waiver for this service (Prague 0450). We await a response before taking further action.

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